

# The Oklahoma Daily

A Student Newspaper Serving the University of Oklahoma Community

Tuesday, April 30, 1991

860 Van Vleet Oval, Norman, OK 73019

75th Year, No. 160 ■ 12 pages

## Petition drive under way for radio station

By Lana F. Flowers  
STAFF REPORTER

### *Students looking for new alternative on the FM dial*

OU students who are tired of searching the radio dial for something besides country and western, album-oriented rock or other standard radio formats have the chance to support something different.

Tuttle senior Jim Rogers, Miami junior Jim Rutter and Chicago sophomore Taylor Wilken will collect signatures on a petition in support of a student-run radio station from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Wednesday near the Bizzell Statue on the South Oval.

The three will also hold a meeting to discuss the

student radio station at 5 p.m. Wednesday in Dining Room A of the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

The idea for a student-run radio station isn't new, though. Rutter, new chairman of the Student Union Activities Board, said people have been talking about it since 1986.

"The idea has been tossed around at Espresso Royale," he said. "People were sitting around saying, 'Wouldn't it be cool if we had a campus radio station?' and no one ever did anything about it."

Rutter said he doesn't feel KGOU — an OU-owned National Public Radio affiliate — is serving the needs of OU students.

"KGOU is nowhere near the level it needs to be for radio / TV / film majors to work at the station," he said. "We want to give students music they like to listen to and a chance to gain some experience."

Rutter said that if the student station is established, it would be run through the Student Union Activities Board and wouldn't be funded with stu-

dents' money.

"We're not after student activity fee money. We don't want to be affiliated with the university," he said. "We can't be affiliated with the university."

Federal Communications Commission regulations prevent any one owner from possessing more than one radio outlet in a market. Since OU already owns KGOU, the university can't own another radio station.

■ See Station, page 2

## Continued from page 1

Rutter said the union is a business run separately from the rest of the university, so a student radio station could be owned by the union.

Wilken said that even though he is helping to establish a student station, he doesn't want to take an "adversarial stance" against KGOU.

"We won't even come close to competing with KGOU. They have a completely separate audience," he said.

Rogers said KGOU is more of an "alumni station" and that students need to take steps to ensure they have their own voice on the airwaves.

"The point is, college is an experience. Part of that experience is left out if students don't have a voice," he said.

Karen Holp, KGOU's general manager, said students have the right to start their own station if they can get the funding.

"If they are successful at getting a license granted and getting a station, it's not in competition with KGOU," she said.

However, Holp said KGOU isn't just a radio station for alumni.

"The station is designed to be heard by people in the signal area. There are students who listen to KGOU," she said. "There is no single format that students

prefer."

Rogers said KGOU and other metropolitan radio stations don't play alternative music that students are hungry to hear.

"The university isn't filling its obligation to the students with a radio station," Rogers said. "Therefore, we students need to fill the obligation ourselves."

But fulfilling that obligation could be expensive. Rutter said he has been looking at the cost of equipment to get the station started.

"Right now, we're looking at current radio stations for used

equipment," he said. "But I do have a worst-case scenario of \$50,000 for all-new equipment."

Finding a frequency for the new station is another hurdle the students will have to overcome.

Rutter said he checked with the FCC in 1987 to see what frequencies were available in the Oklahoma City area. He said only 88 FM was not being used.

Rutter, Rogers and Wilken said they will continue to gather information and hope to present a business proposal to the OMU's Board of Trustees by July.